

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Request for Continued Examination

A request for continued examination (RCE) is enclosed in response to the final Office Action mailed on May 13, 2009.

Claim Status

Claims 1-28 were presented. Claims 1, 3, 8, 10-12 and 28 are amended. New claims 29 and 30 are added. Thus, claims 1-30 are now pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 1-27

Claims 1-8, 10, 12-15 and 17-22 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Rivere (US 3,868,936) in view of Coanda (US 2,907,557) and Takeda (US 4,315,491). Claims 23, 24 and 26 are rejected as obvious over Rivere in view of Coanda and Walker (US 3,374,777). Claims 9, 11 and 28 are rejected as obvious over Rivere in view of Coanda and Marsee (US 4,016,845). Claims 25 and 27 are rejected as obvious over Rivere in view of Coanda, Walker and Marsee. Claim 16 is rejected as obvious over Rivere in view of Coanda and Bishop (US 3,050,376).

In response, applicant traverses the rejections and amends independent claims 1 and 28 to clearly distinguish the present invention over all references of record. In particular, claim 1 is amended to recite:

...an injector that is mounted on a casing forming the air cleaner chamber and jets a fuel to the air current flowing from the inlet in the air cleaner chamber to the outlet...

Although the air current in the air cleaner chamber is made turbulent by the injector if the injector is mounted on a casing forming the air cleaner chamber, the invention of claim 1 prevents the injector from making the air current turbulent by the rectifying member (see, for example, applicants' specification at page 12, line 21 through page 13, line 19).

By contrast, Rivera describes that a fuel injector 4 is adapted to inject liquid fuel petrol into an injection passage 5 so that the fuel can be sprayed through sprout 6 (Rivera at col. 3, lines 13-17). However, Rivera clearly shows in FIGS. 1 and 2 that fuel injector 4 is mounted outside a chamber 2, 9, and not on a casing forming the chamber 2, 9. Coanda describes at col. 5, lines 2-3, that nozzles 12 are connected to one or two constant level fuel reservoirs or tanks. However, Coanda does not teach or suggest that the fuel reservoirs and tanks are mounted on a casing forming the pipe or conduit 1. Takeda describes at col. 2, lines 44-46 and 53-54 that main fuel injector 13 and auxiliary fuel injector 15 are arranged on an inner wall of intake passage 7. However, Takeda clearly shows in FIG. 2 that fuel injectors 13 and 15 are not disposed on a casing forming the intake passage 7.

Thus, Rivera, Coanda and Takeda fail to teach or suggest mounting an injector on a casing forming the air cleaner chamber, as is required by claim 1.

Accordingly, since Rivera, Coanda and Takeda fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1, claim 1 is not obvious over Rivera in view of Coanda and Takeda. Claims 2-27 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons. In this regard, the ancillary references Walker, Marsee and Bishop do not remedy the deficiencies of Rivere, Coanda and Takeda with respect to base claim 1. For these reasons, the rejections of claims 1-27 under 35 USC 103 should be withdrawn.

Claim 28

Claim 28, as amended, recites:

...a plurality of injectors that are mounted on a casing forming the cleaner chamber and jets a fuel to the air current in the air cleaner chamber...

Thus, claim 28 distinguishes over the references of record for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1. In particular, none of River, Coanda

or Marsee discloses or suggests mounting an injector on a casing forming the air cleaner chamber.

Accordingly, since Rivera, Coanda and Marsee fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 28, claim 28 is not obvious over Rivera in view of Coanda and Marsee, and the rejection of claim 28 under 35 USC 103 should be withdrawn.

New Claim

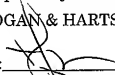
New claims 29 and 30 are added to better define the invention. New claims 29 and 30 depend from claim 1 and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after consideration and entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: July 7, 2009

By: 
Troy M. Schmelzer
Registration No. 36,667
Attorney for Applicant(s)

1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, California 90067
Phone: 310-785-4600
Fax: 310-785-4601